



16.31

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **ATTENTION: GROUP DIRECTOR**
Edwin Southern : **JOHN DOLL 1600**
Serial No. 09/422,803 : Group Art Unit 1631
Filed October 22, 1999 : Examiner A. Marschel

ANALYSING POLYNUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES

LETTER TO THE GROUP DIRECTOR 1600

Commissioner for Patents,
Alexandria, VA

Sir:

The present application has now been suspended due to a potential interference for over 2 years with no activity or resolution.

Since the patent term of this application is limited to 20 years from the international PCT filing date of May 2, 1989, it is prejudicial to the applicant for the application to remain under suspension indefinitely.

It is respectfully submitted that a decision now be made on the potential interference without further delay, and that the interference either be declared, or the patent issued.

In the interim, since the suspension appears to have expired, it is respectfully requested that the suspension be immediately reinstated until action is taken, so that the issued patent is eligible for patent term extension under 37 CFR 1.701.

Respectfully submitted,

Edwin SOUTHERN

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